

From: Jim Stevens
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

It is ironic that AOL-Time Warner should be going to court alleging anti-competitive practices by Microsoft.

AOL is famous in the industry for its own lack of cooperation with instant messaging standards and its exclusionary, proprietary software that does not interoperate well with the rest of the internet.

As a citizen-user of internet software, it is my view that AOL's actions against Microsoft could result in even more wasted capital and energy than have previous efforts of other Microsoft competitors to compete in the courts and in politics instead of technically with good software and standards.

AOL is a pot calling the Microsoft kettle black. The AOL legal filing is a cynical manipulation of the legal process and political setting by the most powerful media group in the country.

These are both extremely large and powerful companies. Get them out of the court room to compete on their technical and business merits.

Respectfully,

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